

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend independent Claims 1, 8, and 13 as follows. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of selecting content by way of a multi-source interactive in-an-audio/video programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable
5 items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously
10 considers content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

providing at least one selection criterion;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second
15 plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

20 supporting a programming guide navigation;

reviewing and browsing the information regarding the at least one portion of the resultant selection;

if selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, providing a

selection response; and

- 25 if not selecting a particular item of the plurality of discrete selectable items, returning to the supporting step.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 4 wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

- accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;
 accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of
5 discrete selectable items of audio/video content;
 comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 4 further comprising:

 responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing
5 descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video
content.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus,
comprising:

a data processing unit comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting
essentially of a fixed-purpose dedicated platform, a partially-programmable platform, a cable,
5 and a satellite set-top box;

a plurality of characterizing descriptors, each of which [[as]] individually correspond to a
plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, wherein a first plurality of the
discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a second plurality of the discrete
selectable items of audio/video content with respect to a primary transmission service provider
10 and[[-]] at least one selection criterion;

a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the
discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable
for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content
across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second
15 plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

a control circuitry adapted to:

apply the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors of
the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality
of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide a resultant selection of first the
20 plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete
selectable items of audio/video content;

display programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a
portion of the resultant selection; and

a support programming guide navigation,

25 wherein the data processing unit utilizes the plurality of characterizing descriptors, the
plurality of cascading filters, the control circuitry, and the support programming guide

navigation.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection.

Claim 10 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 and wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide.

Claim 11 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword.

Claim 12 (original): The interactive programming guide of claim 8 wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of providing [[a]] an interactive multi-source programming guide apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs, wherein a first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs differ from a second plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs with respect to a primary transmission service provider;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content;

providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual;

applying the at least one selection criterion with respect to the characterizing descriptors

of the first plurality of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of
15 the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a resultant selection of the first plurality
of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of the discrete selectable
audio/visual programs;

displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a
portion of the resultant selection; and

20 providing a support programming guide navigation.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein providing at least one selection criterion
that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present
viewer.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14 wherein providing at least one
selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises using the identity to
recall at least one previously stored selection criterion.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein displaying programming guide
information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising
information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection
includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the
5 first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of
discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein displaying programming
guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising
information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection
includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least of one of the
5 first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete
selectable audio/visual programs.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

responding to a remote control by scrolling through the programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection;

detecting user selection of a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

providing a user database and wherein providing at least one selection criterion further comprises using information from the user database to characterize the at least one selection criterion to be provided; and

responding to a remote control by selecting a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content,

wherein using information from the user database to identify the at least one selection criterion to be provided comprises:

accessing information from the user database to discern preferences of a particular user;

accessing the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content; and

comparing the preferences of a particular user to the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion comprises:

supplying at least one user-defined keyword; and

matching the at least one user-defined keyword with at least one of the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items of audio/video content from at least one of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The interactive programming guide of claim 8,

wherein the control circuitry further comprises filter means for comparing the at least one selection criterion with at least some of the characterizing descriptors of the first plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of discrete selectable
5 items of audio/video content to provide the resultant selection,

wherein the at least one selection criterion is based, at least in part, upon a preference of a present viewer of the interactive programming guide,

wherein the at least one selection criterion comprises a user-defined keyword, and

wherein the at least one selection criterion is retained in a database.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 13,

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual further comprises ascertaining an identity of a present viewer.

wherein providing at least one selection criterion that corresponds to a given individual
5 further comprises using the identity to recall at least one previously stored selection criterion, and

wherein displaying programming guide information further comprises displaying programming guide information comprising information regarding at least a portion of the resultant selection, wherein the resultant selection includes two or more discrete selectable items
10 of audio/video content from at least of one of the first plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs and the second plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs.